



For Immediate Release:

Donor recognition/grant awards event

The Greene County Community Foundation (GCCF) will hold its first donor recognition and grant recipient award event on Monday, April 10 at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church fellowship hall in Jefferson.

Rand Fisher, president of the Iowa Area Development Group and co-organizer of the Iowa Community Affiliate Network (Iowa C.A.N.), will be the keynote speaker. The Greene County Community Foundation is affiliated with the Iowa C.A.N. and the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for donors to see first hand the good that can be achieved through philanthropy,” said GCCF president Jacque Andrew. “The board wanted to especially show its appreciation to donors and combining it with the grant awards seemed ideal.”

The first donors to the foundation, organized in January 2005, helped build the \$32,500 endowment which was used as a match to apply for the Endow Iowa grants. Greene county’s foundation was one of only six in the state to receive the \$25,000 award also designated for the permanent endowment.

Endow Iowa is a component of the Iowa Values Fund, created in 2003. The goal of the program is to enhance the quality of life for Iowans by providing capital to aid nonprofit projects and programs. The Endow Iowa grant program is administered by the Iowa Council of Foundations in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Economic Development. Endow Iowa has leveraged statewide more than \$600,000 in local contributions, creating vehicles for philanthropic impact in communities across the state.

But it was the new gambling bill, HF 2302 passed in 2004, that provided the mechanism for Greene and more than 80 other Iowa counties to receive one-half of one per cent of the state's gambling revenues which poured \$63,600 into the local foundation. By law, 25 per cent of the gambling revenue funds must be placed in the permanent endowment of the county foundation. The remaining 75 per cent is to be offered for local grants to revitalize communities.

\$43,000 in grant awards will be announced at the meeting next month. Twenty-five grants were scored by the GCCF board. "Recommendations were forwarded to the Greater Des Moines Community Foundation for review and approval. According to the Greene County Community Foundation grantmaking committee chairperson, Susan Smith, "We are very excited about receiving the number of quality applications and the many wonderful projects planned for in communities throughout the county."

Donations to the Greene County Community Foundation are always welcome. Ongoing local philanthropy will assist with future grantmaking and improvements to the quality of life in Greene county. More information is available by calling 515-386-2138.